

The above amendment to claim 21 overcomes its rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claim 21 and claims 22-45 dependent therein are deemed allowable.

The rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/05216 to Fujita et al. relies upon the wrong statutory basis since WO 99/05216 was not published more than one year prior to the filing date of the present application. In particular, the present application is a 371 national phase of PCT/JP90/05557 filed October 8, 1999; whereas WO 99/05216 was published February 4, 1999. Therefore, the statutory basis of this rejection should have been 35 USC 102 (a).

However, the rejections of claims 1-9 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) as being anticipated by WO 99/05216 to Fujita, et al., of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita, et al. and of claims 64-79 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Fujita, et al. in view of U.S. Patent 4,788,254 to Kawakubo, et al. have been overcome by the filing of attached verified English translations of Japanese priority applications HEI1 10-285 799; HEI 10-285 798 and HEI 10-298 295. The filing dates of these priority applications are prior to February 4, 1999, the publication date of WO 99/05216.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**In the Claims**

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

21. (Amended) A curable composition comprising the following two components:

(A3) a vinyl polymer having at least one crosslinking functional group on the average per molecule and

(D) a high molecular plasticizer having a number average molecular weight of 500 or over.